

ISL GENEALOGY COLLECTION

Open for Exploration

The Genealogy Collection has developed over time to become one of the largest collections of family history information in the Midwest. The collection includes over 40,000 printed items (family histories, indexes to records, how-to books, cemetery transcriptions, magazines and more) as well as microfilmed federal census records, Indiana county records, passenger lists and military pension information. The collection includes hundreds of CDs with family history information. The emphasis of the collection is on Indiana and bordering states, as well as eastern and southern states. Resources for Native American and African-American family history research are also available.

Although most materials may only be used within the Indiana State Library, collection experts will help you begin your research and locate the best resources to research your family's genealogy. The printed collections, electronic resources, and Genealogy Collection reference desk are located on the first floor. The genealogy microfilm and microfiche collections and printed census indexes are located on the second floor along side Indiana newspapers on microfilm. Additionally, resources located in the History Reference Room provide family history researchers with easy access to additional resources in Indiana and American history and biography.



GENEALOGY COLLECTION

Indiana State Library
315 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Phone: 317-232-3689
TDD: 317-232-7763

Genealogy Homepage

www.IN.gov/library/genealogy.htm



Reference Assistance

www.in.gov/library/ask.htm



Indiana Digital Archives

www.indianadigitalarchives.org

WWW.LIBRARY.IN.GOV



BEGINNING YOUR RESEARCH



WWW.LIBRARY.IN.GOV

BEGIN YOUR

Begin Your Research with Family

Begin by talking to family members, especially those who are older or have an interest in your family and its history. They may have useful information that can send you on a search for more. See if they have documents, such as birth certificates, marriage licenses, military discharge papers, letters or diaries and make copies of the documents for your files.

Have you interviewed your relatives? Talk to your parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Fill out a Family Group sheet and write down the dates of important life events: births, deaths, and marriages. For your convenience, copies of Family Group sheets are available at the Genealogy Collection's Reference Desk on the first floor of the Library.

Federal Census Records

Census records are one of the most valuable tools available to family history researchers. We suggest that starting with latest census available to the public & work your way back. Remember, little of the 1890 census exists today; most was destroyed by a fire.

There are many clues in the census records, which differ from decade to decade. Beginning with the 1850 census, members of the household are named. Other information may include birth month and year, proof of property ownership, proof of naturalization and arrival date in America.

The Library has all available census records for all states, 1790 through 1880 and 1930 on microfilm. We also have census records for other years for many other states. A chart listing the Library's census records by year and state is available on our website. Census records for every state are available online via the **Ancestry Library Edition** and **HeritageQuest Online** subscription databases. These databases are available from any computer in the Library.

Indiana County Resources and Records

Most information of genealogical value is arranged by county. You may want to start by checking our "historic" card catalog

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by county. Please note that materials are arranged by subject in this catalog, not by author or title. You will also need to check our online catalog for books received after 1976. If you are searching for Indiana county materials, you could also just browse the books on the shelves or check the online list of Indiana county records.

A great quick guide to county sources, **Indiana Sources for Genealogical Research**, is available at the Reference Desk. You may also want to begin your research with the WPA Indexes, also known as "red books". These are birth, death & marriage indexes for most Indiana counties. Indiana began recording births and deaths in 1882; marriages were recorded from the formation of the county.

Keep in mind that many people born before 1907 (when stricter laws were in place) do not have original birth records. You may need to check other records, such as the federal census, to verify birth. The Genealogy Collection does not have actual birth and death certificates; those are available from the local health department. The Indiana Department of Health also has death records beginning in 1900 and birth records beginning in 1907.

Microforms & Indiana Collections

All microfilm/microfiche is located on the second floor, which is also home to the Indiana Collection, which includes county histories city directories, biographies, and Indiana newspapers. The Genealogy Collection microfilms include marriage records, census records, deeds, county histories and select church, immigration and military records.

Books for Beginners

These books provide a good overview for those just beginning their family history research and are available for use in the Genealogy Collection's reading room (first floor):

Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo. **A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Female Ancestors: Special Strategies for Uncovering Hard-to-Find Information about Your Female Lineage** (929 C287g)

Croom, Emily Anne. **Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide**

RESEARCH

to **Genealogy** (929 C948u 1995)

Croom, Emily Anne. **Sleuth Book for Genealogists: Strategies for more Successful Family History Research** (929 C948s)

Crume, Rick. **Plugging into Your Past: How to Find Real Family History Online** (929 C956p)

Dollarhide, William. **The Census Book: A Genealogist's Guide to Federal Census Facts, Schedules and Indexes** (929 D665c)

Everton, George. **Handybook for Genealogists** (929 E93h11)

Jacobson, Judy. **A Field Guide for Genealogists** (929 J165f)

Johnson, Richard S. **Find Anyone Fast** (929 J68f)

Kemp, Thomas Jay. **Virtual Roots 2.0: A Guide to Genealogy & Local History on the World Wide Web** (929 K32vr 2003)

Pfeiffer, Laura Szucs. **Hidden Sources: Family History in Unlikely Places** (929 P526h)

Robinson, Mona. **Who's Your Hoosier Ancestor? Genealogy for Beginners** (929 R663w)

Schaefer, Christina Kassabian. **The Hidden Half of the Family: A Sourcebook for Women's Genealogy** (929 S294h)

Sturdevant, Katherine Scott. **Bringing Your Family History to Life through Social History** (929 S935b)



INDIANA STATE
DIGITAL ARCHIVES



The **Indiana Digital Archives** features over 2.5 million records and has several search features designed to enhance the researcher's experience. People Search enables patrons to enter a surname and search across over 20 different collections in seconds. The "Detailed Search" enables more targeted research performed by choosing one of several variables. Learn more at:

WWW.INDIANADIGITALARCHIVES.ORG